

**COLLEGE OF MEDICINE  
SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS  
FINANCIAL AID POLICY**

**Effective beginning May 1, 2011**

**This policy applies to the following: students enrolled in courses leading to the MD degree**

Federal law and regulations require that all students receiving financial assistance maintain satisfactory academic progress. Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) is defined as the successful completion of degree requirements according to established increments that lead to awarding the degree within published time limits. The following policy delineates the standards for SAP at The University of Arizona College of Medicine - Tucson.

Students not meeting the standards of academic progress will not be eligible to receive Title IV, Title VII and university grant funding. Scholarship awards will follow the terms as outlined in the scholarship agreement.

**SAP Monitoring**

The College of Medicine Student Progress Committee (SPC) monitors and confirms if a student meets academic progress measures as outlined by the [Grading and Progression Policies](#) approved by the Education Policy Committee (EPC) consistently throughout the academic year. "Student Progress Committee" or "SPC" means a Committee established pursuant to the Bylaws of a University of Arizona College of Medicine as outlined in the ['Procedures for Student Progress, Academic Integrity, and Managing Grade Appeals at The University of Arizona College of Medicine'](#). SPC also monitors Medicine dual degrees programs for meeting medical school progress measures.

For financial aid purposes, SAP will be evaluated annually and manually, at the end of the spring semester. The Financial Aid Office in conjunction with the Office of Student Affairs and SPC consistently monitor at-risk students for progression; therefore, if students fail to progress in accordance with the requirements established by the EPC's Program-wide Grading and Progression Policies, the SPC will consider the circumstances surrounding and determine appropriate remedial measures, or order that the student be dismissed.

## **COLLEGE OF MEDICINE SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS STANDARDS:**

### **Qualitative and quantitative standards**

To be eligible for financial aid, students are required to successfully complete all of the College of Medicine Tucson required courses\*and examinations in order to graduate with the MD degree. There are both qualitative (measurement based) and quantitative (pace or time-related) standards that must be met.

### **QUALITATIVE STANDARDS:**

Students seeking the MD degree in the College of Medicine receive Honors/Pass/Fail grades and a grade point average (GPA) is not calculated. Students are expected to Pass or Honor all courses attempted in order to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP).

### **QUANTITATIVE STANDARDS:**

**Minimum standard** -The normal time frame for completion of required course work for the MD degree is four academic years. The pace is defined Effective with students matriculating in Fall 2016, all students must satisfactorily complete Years 1 & 2 of the M.D. degree and take the USMLE Step 1 Exam within three years of the date of matriculation. The student in a dual degree program (e.g, MD-PhD, MD-MPH, etc) can require an additional one year to two years to complete an additional graduate program.

**Maximum standard** – The maximum time frame for a student to earn the M.D. degree cannot exceed 150 percent (6 years) of the published length of the program of the 4 year program.

The student in a dual degree program (e.g, MD-PhD, MD-MPH, etc) may exceed the six year limitation in satisfying the requirements of both degrees to not exceed 9 years which is 150% the published length of the four-year medical school program and two-year graduate program.

Dual-degree students in a College of Medicine MD-PhD or MDMPH program may exceed the six year limit to satisfy the requirements for the M.D. degree; however, must follow the same timeframe rules as the standard MD degree (refer to Section Five: Dismissal from the College of Medicine of the [Grading and Progression Policies](#)).

All time limits are inclusive of leaves of absence, the repeat of an academic year, and retakes or remediation of any course, exam, or other requirement.

## **TREATMENT OF REPEAT COURSEWORK:**

### Repeat Coursework

Financial aid is available for the first repeat of any previously passed course. Students may receive financial aid funding for the repeat of a failing grade or withdrawal of any class or classes. Repeat of the same course may only be funded one additional time and counts towards the pace of completion. Each attempt is factored into pace and the timeframe allowance.

### Repeat of Entire Year Coursework

In situation where a student is required to repeat an academic year for both the coursework they failed and passed, they can only receive funding once for the repeat of the same academic year.

## **ACADEMIC DISMISSAL OR WITHDRAWAL:**

Students who are academically dismissed or who withdraw from the school are not making academic progress and will no longer qualify for financial aid.

## **APPEAL PROCESS:**

Eligibility for continued financial aid will only be re-established if the student subsequently meets Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements, or if the student successfully appeals the decision to the Student Progress Committee. The financial aid appeal must state the reasons for failing to meet SAP requirements, including, if applicable, special circumstances that contributed to the student's failure to make satisfactory academic progress (e.g., an injury or illness of the student, the death of a relative, or other special circumstances), and the changes in circumstances that will allow the student to demonstrate Satisfactory Academic Progress at the next evaluation. The Student Progress Committee (SPC) Chair will send a signed letter to the student that can be used to support his/her academic plan. Students who successfully petition for reinstatement, may regain eligibility for financial aid funding.

## **FINANCIAL AID PROBATION**

Once an appeal has been approved, a student is placed on financial aid probation and is eligible for financial aid. The Student Progress Committee, in conjunction with Student Development, will develop an academic plan for the student that will ensure, if followed, that the student is able to meet the COM Tucson SAP standards by a specific point of time. Ordinarily, this time frame will be for an academic year. The student is eligible for financial aid during the time frame stated in the academic plan. At the end of the time frame stated in the academic plan, the student must have met the SAP standards. A student who does not comply with each SAP standard by the end of the financial aid probationary period is suspended from financial aid eligibility. A student shall be reinstated for financial aid eligibility

when he/she has satisfactorily completed sufficient coursework to meet the standards of progress within the maximum time frames delineated above.

#### Denied appeals

If there are new or additional extenuating circumstances, a student may file a second appeal. The student should submit additional information which explains the circumstances during which the student was unable to meet the standards for SAP. Students are notified of the decision of the second appeal in writing, and the decision is final. Students may apply for a private loan if the second appeal is denied.

#### Reinstatement

A student who is denied financial aid for failing to maintain SAP may regain financial aid eligibility by meeting the qualitative standard of SAP towards the M.D. degree.

#### Notification:

Students in academic difficulty will be notified in writing by the Financial Aid Office of their status for continued financial aid funding.